

**40 CFR Part 52****[EPA-R04-OAR-2021-0947; FRL-9640-02-R4]****Air Plan Approval; Mississippi; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving portions of a State Implementation Plan (SIP) submission provided by the State of Mississippi, through the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), through a letter dated January 25, 2021. This approval pertains to certain infrastructure requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act) for the 2015 8-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS or standards). Whenever EPA promulgates a new or revised NAAQS, the CAA requires that each state adopt and submit a SIP for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of that NAAQS. EPA is approving portions of Mississippi's January 25, 2021, submittal as the state has certified that its SIP contains provisions that ensure the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS is implemented, enforced, and maintained in Mississippi. EPA has determined that Mississippi's infrastructure SIP submission satisfies certain required infrastructure elements for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

**DATES:** This rule is effective **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket Identification No. EPA-R04-OAR-2021-0947. All documents in the docket are listed on the [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) web site. Although listed in the index, some information may not be publicly available, i.e., Confidential Business Information or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available

either electronically through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in hard copy at the Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. EPA requests, that if at all possible, you contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office's official hours of business are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sarah LaRocca, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960. The telephone number is (404) 562-8994. Ms. LaRocca can also be reached via electronic mail at [larocca.sarah@epa.gov](mailto:larocca.sarah@epa.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

On October 1, 2015, EPA promulgated a revised primary and secondary NAAQS for ozone, revising the 8-hour ozone standards from 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to a new more protective level of 0.070 ppm. *See* 80 FR 65292 (October 26, 2015). Pursuant to section 110(a)(1) of the CAA, states are required to submit SIP revisions meeting the applicable requirements of section 110(a)(2) within three years after promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS or within such shorter period as EPA may prescribe. Section 110(a)(2) requires states to address basic SIP elements such as requirements for monitoring, basic program requirements, and legal authority that are designed to assure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. This particular type of SIP is commonly referred to as an “infrastructure SIP” or “iSIP.” States were required to submit such SIP revisions for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS to EPA no later than October 1, 2018.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In infrastructure SIP submissions, states generally certify evidence of compliance with sections 110(a)(1) and (2) of the CAA through a combination of state regulations and statutes, some of which have been incorporated into the

This action is approving portions of Mississippi's January 25, 2021, SIP revision provided to EPA, through the MDEQ, for the applicable infrastructure SIP requirements of the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS, with the exception of the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) provisions related to major sources under sections 110(a)(2)(C), 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II), and 110(a)(2)(J); the air quality modeling element of 110(a)(2)(K);<sup>2</sup> and the visibility protection provisions of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II). EPA will consider the portions of Mississippi's January 25, 2021, SIP revision that addresses the PSD infrastructure elements, the air quality modeling element, and the visibility protection provisions of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II) through separate rulemakings. EPA also notes that Mississippi's January 25, 2021, SIP submission addresses all infrastructure elements except for those pertaining to the contribution to nonattainment or interference with maintenance in other states.<sup>3</sup>

In a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), published on July 15, 2022 (87 FR 42424), EPA proposed to approve in part and conditionally approve in part a portion of Mississippi's January 25, 2021, SIP revision addressing certain infrastructure requirements for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS.<sup>4</sup> The details of Mississippi's submission and the rationale for EPA's action are explained in the NPRM. Comments on the July 15, 2022, NPRM were due on or before August 15, 2022. EPA did not receive any comments on the July 15, 2022, NPRM.

## **II. Final Action**

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SIP. In addition, certain federally-approved, non-SIP regulations may also be appropriate for demonstrating compliance with sections 110(a)(1) and (2).

<sup>2</sup> As part of the January 25, 2021, SIP submission, Mississippi requested conditional approval of the PSD provisions related to major sources under sections 110(a)(2)(C), 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II), and 110(a)(2)(J), and the air quality modeling element under 110(a)(2)(K). Under CAA section 110(k)(4), EPA may conditionally approve a SIP revision based on a commitment from a state to adopt specific enforceable measures by a date certain, but not later than one year from the date of approval. If the state fails to meet the commitment within one year of the final conditional approval, the conditional approval will be treated as a disapproval and EPA will issue a finding of disapproval. In the July 15, 2022, NPRM, EPA proposed to conditionally approve the PSD provisions related to major sources under sections 110(a)(2)(C), 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II), and 110(a)(2)(J), and the air quality modeling element under 110(a)(2)(K) in relation to Mississippi's January 25, 2021, SIP revision. However, EPA is not finalizing that proposed conditional approval through this final action and will address these provisions through a separate rulemaking.

<sup>3</sup> On September 6, 2019, Mississippi provided a SIP submission addressing the interstate transport provisions of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) pertaining to contribution to nonattainment or interference with maintenance in other states. EPA is addressing the interstate transport provisions of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I) through a separate rulemaking.

<sup>4</sup> As discussed in footnote 2, EPA is not finalizing the proposed conditional approval through this final action.

With the exception of the visibility provision of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II) and the PSD provisions related to major sources under sections 110(a)(2)(C), 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II) (prong 3), and 110(a)(2)(J), and the modeling provision of 110(a)(2)(K), EPA is approving Mississippi's January 25, 2021, SIP submission because it satisfies certain required infrastructure elements for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

### **III. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews**

Under the CAA, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable Federal regulations. *See* 42 U.S.C. 7410(k); 40 CFR 52.02(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the CAA. This action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this final action:

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Orders 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*);
- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*);
- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4);
- Does not have Federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);
- Is not an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);

- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001);
- Is not subject to requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the CAA; and
- Does not provide EPA with the discretionary authority to address, as appropriate, disproportionate human health or environmental effects, using practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

The SIP is not approved to apply on any Indian reservation land or in any other area where EPA or an Indian tribe has demonstrated that a tribe has jurisdiction. In those areas of Indian country, the rule does not have tribal implications as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000), nor will it impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law.

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this action and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the *Federal Register*. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Under section 307(b)(1) of the CAA, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of

this action for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. *See* section 307(b)(2) of the CAA.

#### **List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52**

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: September 15, 2022.

**Daniel Blackman,**  
*Regional Administrator,*  
*Region 4.*

For the reasons stated in the preamble, EPA amends 40 CFR part 52 as follows:

## **PART 52 – APPROVAL AND PROMULGATION OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS**

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

### **Subpart Z - Mississippi**

2. In § 52.1270(e), amend the table by adding an entry for “110(a)(1) and (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS” at the end of the table to read as follows:

#### **§ 52.1270 Identification of plan.**

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(e) \* \* \*

**EPA Approved Mississippi Non-Regulatory Provisions**

<b>Name of non-regulatory SIP provision</b>	<b>Applicable geographic or nonattainment area</b>	<b>State submittal date/effective date</b>	<b>EPA approval date</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
**	**	*	*	*
110(a)(1) and (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS	Mississippi	1/25/2021	[Insert date of publication in the Federal Register], [Insert citation of publication]	With the exception of the visibility provision of section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II) (prong 4), the PSD provisions related to major sources under sections 110(a)(2)(C), 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(II) (prong 3), and 110(a)(2)(J), and the modeling provision of 110(a)(2)(K).